



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**PUBLIC MEETING  
BIENNIAL TRANSMISSION PROJECTS REPORT  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2006  
MPUC LARGE HEARING ROOM  
9:00 AM**

*The Commission invites interested stakeholders to participate in staff-organized discussions of potential changes to improve and increase public participation in the transmission planning process. See back of agenda for background*

**AGENDA**

- I. Introductions**
- II. Background**
- III. Who are the stakeholders?**
- IV. Annual Zonal Meetings**
  - A. Notice (Who gets the notice? What information included?)
  - B. Format (How should the meetings be conducted? What should be discussed?)
  - C. Location of the meetings
  - D. Written comments
  - E. Summaries (What should be included in the written summaries?)
- V. Other mechanisms for advising the public**  
(web postings, county board meetings, PUC annual meeting, association meetings)
- VI. 2007 Biennial Report**
  - A. Content
  - B. Certification Requests
- VII. Follow-up**
  - A. Report to the PUC
  - B. 2006 Zonal Meetings
  - C. Other
- VIII. Adjourn**

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Page 6:        **E.        Public Participation in Transmission Planning Process**

The 2005 Report shows that the MTO has satisfied the requirements set forth in Minn. Rules 7848 to advise local officials and the general public about planning activities and possible new high voltage transmission lines. MTO suggests, however, that the procedures set forth in the rules are not working to actively involve the public early on in transmission planning. The public and local officials simply are not attending the annual public meetings required to be held in each planning zone. Simply put, the public is not interested in attending these meetings unless local residents are informed that a new power line may be proposed to be routed near their home or business.

Recognizing this, the MTO has requested the assistance of the Commission with respect to attempting to improve public input into the transmission planning process. It suggested several means by which the Commission might improve the current process, including:

- solicitation of ideas from interested parties for improvement;
- posting the Biennial Petitions on the Commission and Department websites; and
- providing greater accessibility for the Commission's annual hearing.

The Commission agrees that it is important to ensure that information is available to the public. Accordingly, the Commission will post future petitions regarding the biennial transmission planning process on its website. However, the Commission notes that this will only apprise individuals who are already aware of the annual petitions *and* the Commission's website, and is not likely to generally produce a greater level of public awareness.

In an effort to stimulate a broader discussion to address this important issue, the Commission will invite interested stakeholders to participate in staff-organized discussions of potential changes to improve and increase public participation in the transmission planning process.

ORDER, in part:

4.        The Commission invites interested stakeholders to participate in staff-organized discussions of potential changes to improve and increase public participation in the transmission planning process.

To review the order in its entirety, see: <http://www.puc.state.mn.us/docs/orders/06-0079.pdf>  
For additional information, contact Bob Cupit, MPUC staff, at telephone 651-201-2255 or email [bob.cupit@state.mn.us](mailto:bob.cupit@state.mn.us).